

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Jackson County, MI

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

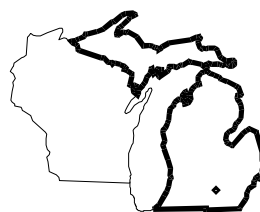
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Jackson County to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Jackson County (population 155,000) is located in south-central Michigan along the I-94 corridor about 80 miles west of Detroit. The county consists of 26 local governments, including the City of Jackson. The city began as an agricultural town and quickly developed into an industrial and manufacturing community focusing on the automotive industry. When the nation's economy changed during the late 1970s and early 1980s, the county's industrial base fell apart as plants closed, resulting in job loss, population decline, and hundreds of vacant and abandoned industrial and commercial properties. Today, service-related jobs account for 62 percent of the county's employment, and the county's per capita income is \$12,556, approximately half of that of the state.

The Jackson County Redevelopment Authority estimates that there are more than 2,000 brownfields properties county-wide. The Pilot targets several commercial or industrial sites in the city's industrial corridor for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. The Grand River bisects the targeted area, offering opportunities for riverfront redevelopment.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Jackson County, Michigan

Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$150,000

Profile: The Pilot targets commercial and industrial properties in the southeast quadrant of the County of Jackson's industrial corridor as well as surrounding townships for environmental assessment.

Contacts:

Jackson County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (517) 788-4455	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA - Region 5 (312) 886-7257
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Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Jackson County plans to create new jobs through private investment that has been leveraged as a result of the redevelopment of county brownfields properties. To aid this effort, the county plans to provide financial incentives available through its Brownfields Redevelopment Authority and the state. Jackson County plans to expand the use of the 100-site inventory previously created by the Pilot. The Pilot will use its inventory and preliminary economic analysis of brownfields sites as tools to generate redevelopment interest in these properties.

The Pilot plans to:

- Complete approximately 12 Phase I environmental assessments and 10 Phase II environmental assessments on inventoried properties;
- Conduct eight Baseline Environmental Assessments (environmental evaluations which, when filed with the State of Michigan, limit future owner or tenant liability);
- Expand the community outreach programs designed to identify brownfields sites for inclusion in the inventory; and
- Educate stakeholders regarding redevelopment options for Pilot area sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.